

### Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A signal transmitter ~~which is connected~~ for connecting to a signal receiver via a transmission line, the signal transmitter comprising:

a time-base compression means for time-base-compressing ~~a first signal~~ an audio signal employing a video sampling clock;

~~—— a multiplexing control signal generator for generating a multiplexing control signal on the basis of a second signal;~~

a signal multiplexing means for multiplexing the time-base-compressed ~~first signal, the second signal and a third signal~~ audio signal and a video signal, employing ~~the~~ a multiplexing control signal generated ~~by the multiplexing control signal generator~~ based on a horizontal synchronizing signal or a vertical synchronizing signal, and outputting a video/audio multiplexed signal; and via a data line, and outputting the multiplexing control signal via a transmission line different from the data line.

~~—— a signal transmitting means for transmitting the multiplexed signal and the multiplexing control signal to the signal receiver.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** A signal transmitter ~~which is connected~~ for connecting to a signal receiver via a transmission line, the signal transmitter comprising:

a time-base compression means for time-base-compressing ~~a first signal~~ an audio signal employing a video sampling clock;

a multiplexing control signal generator for generating a multiplexing control signal ~~on the basis of a second signal;~~ which provides a no-signal period between the time-base compressed audio signal and a video signal; and

a signal multiplexing means for multiplexing the time-base-compressed ~~first signal, the second signal and a third signal,~~ audio signal and a video signal, employing the multiplexing control signal generated by the multiplexing control signal generator, signal, and outputting a video/audio multiplexed signal via a data line; and

~~—— a signal transmitting means for transmitting the multiplexed signal to the signal receiver.~~

Claims 3-10 (Canceled)